



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier Bay National Park
and Preserve

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Glacier Bay News Release

Effective date: **5:00 AM September 14, 2004**

Contact(s): **Tomie Patrick Lee (Superintendent) or Chuck Young (Chief Ranger)**

Phone number: **907 697- 2230**

Date: **September 13, 2004**

Beardslee Entrance Vessel Speed and Course Restrictions Lifted

In Accordance with Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Tomie Patrick Lee announced today that the 10 knot vessel speed limit and course restrictions in the waters of northern Beardslee Entrance have been lifted. These restrictions were implemented on August 7 to protect humpback whales that were frequenting the area. Over the past week, the number of humpback whales sighted in the area has declined significantly, resulting in the cancellation of these vessel operating restrictions. As of 5:00 AM on Tuesday September 14, 2004, there are no vessel speed or course restrictions in Beardslee Entrance.

However, because numerous humpback whales remain in the entrance to the West Arm whale waters, the 13 knot vessel speed limit in that area will remain in effect until further notice (see attached map). Boaters should proceed cautiously in all areas where whales are present because whales may surface in unexpected locations, posing a hazard to both the vessel and the whale.

The Park's vessel quotas and operating restrictions are designed in part to protect the endangered humpback whale, which feeds in the waters of southeastern Alaska, including Glacier Bay. Park regulations specify that vessels accidentally positioned within one-quarter mile of a whale must slow immediately to 10 knots or less and steer the vessel on a steady course away from the whale (perpendicular to the whale's course) until their vessel is at least one quarter mile from the whale.

Boaters are advised to verify whale waters designations prior to entering Glacier Bay by telephoning (907) 697-2627 or by contacting KWM20 Bartlett Cove on marine VHF radio.

Information is also available on the Park's web site at:

<http://www.nps.gov/glba/pphtml/news.html>

(continued next page)

